GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3910
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2017
Sterilization
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Mahendran Shri C.;Meena Shri Harish Chandra;Parthipan Shri R.;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar;Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether female sterilization has been one of the common forms of family planning in India for decades, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country leads the world in the sterilization of women, if so, the reasons behind choosing this option over others for family planning, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is lack of adequate medical infrastructure to conduct sterilizations in a safe environment, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has noticed lack/irregularities in pre-operative procedures and post-operative care in sterilization camps organised in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that women receive proper medical care and that sterilizations are carried out without endangering their lives?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Yes. Female sterilization is one of the common forms of family planning in India. The Family Planning Programme in India is voluntary in nature and the Government promotes all family planning choices including female sterilization equally. It is the prerogative of the clients to choose a family planning method as per their reproductive rights and Government provides the services free of cost in all public health and accredited private/ NGO facilities as per the demand.

(b): No, India does not lead the world in the sterilization of women. The share of sterilization for various countries with similar demographics is placed at Annexure.

(c) to (f): Health is a state subject and various states are in different stages of development in terms of infrastructure. However quality in sterilization services is a dynamic process with new technologies and protocols for infection prevention being incorporated from time to time to improve service quality.

Hon'ble Supreme court too has stressed the need to strengthen the Primary Health Centers in a time bound manner for this purpose in its recent judgement in October 2016.

The Government has accordingly issued detailed guidelines with respect to preoperative measures and post-operative follow-ups, also incorporating the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, to all States/UTs for taking strategic actions in this regard.

The steps taken by the Government among others include:
â€¢ Updation of guidelines on standards and quality assurance in sterilization services.

â€¢ Dissemination of the standards to all States/UTs of India through workshops conducted in the states for all stakeholders including program managers and service providers.

â€¢ Establishment and strengthening of State and District Quality Assurance committees for monitoring quality of sterilization services.

â€¢ Meetings from time to time with health secretaries of States/UTs on action taken report for maintaining quality in family planning services.

â€¢ Regular supportive supervision visits and tracking through Health Management Information System.